

**Middletown Township Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from September 9, 2024**

Present: Kris Belser, Helene Ratner, Missy Kitzmiller, Dan Giacomelli, Bill Fuller,
Nicole Tener, Joanne Morelli, Patrick Graham, Paul Kopera
Absent: Debbie Marchesani, Dori Bower
Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Kris Belser. MAA did not attend the meeting so there was no public comment on non-agenda items. A motion was made by Missy Kitzmiller and seconded by Bill Fuller to approve the minutes from our June meeting; the motion was approved by all 5-0.

Construction and Capital Improvement status: Forsythia Crossing hockey rink was completed on 8/13 with a successful ribbon cutting with Gritty. Armour still has to trench the playground- side of the Park for future light poles along the figure 8 walking path. The new Deck at the Barn is \$96,000 and the BOS will approve at tonight's meeting. Comprehensive Plan – DCNR – went out for bids; interviewed on 7/28 as the project is \$110,000. Grant covers half and consultant Simone Collins was approved in early August. The Comprehensive Plan should be done at the end of 2025 based on the current status.

Capital Projects: \$27,000 will be for cameras and locks for the Barn and \$15,000 for new fire code for the concession stand and the Senior Center kitchen. 2025 Budget improvement discussions that will be open to the public are scheduled for October 14 & 28 (open to the public).

Open discussion regarding Forsythia Crossing Park regarding sponsor scoreboard proposed by MAA on their website is a non-starter, portable toilets will be restored with Groovin at 9/28, water for field use at Twin Oaks for fields 3, 6 and 7 and MAA will come to the October meeting as the pressure is not good. The Twp has spent close to \$1M in capital improvements at Twin Oaks Park since 2021. (P.Kopera left about 6:40 PM for the BOS at 7 PM.)

Groovin' at the Gates on 9/28 – expecting 2000 people to attend and Woods Services will shuttle people from the Senior Center and Schweitzer to the event. There will be various food trucks and 17 vendors at the event along with the Seven band playing. Various sports groups will also be participating on the rink so it should be a great event.

Basketball/pickleball – Kyle Ratner did a great job this summer and the league was

great. Pickleball is going well and so far, registration has 450 signed up with over 55 groups involved. The schedule is posted on CourtReserve so members can see when there is action. Next year, there will be a slight change in pricing and the volunteers have been great with their help. We also have 8 teams for fall kickball at Comm Park.

Event update: Senior games that took place were bocce on 6/7 and pickleball on 6/10. The Middletown Community Foundation golf outing on 6/24 at Spring Mill Country Club had a great crowd. On 8/13, it was the ribbon cutting event with Gritty for the Forsythia Crossing hockey rink from noon until 2:00 pm. Groovin' at the Gates is scheduled for Saturday, 9/28 from noon until 5:00 pm, Parklandfest with the Harrowgate Stringband is scheduled for 10/5 at Firefighter's Park from noon until 4:00 pm, the Holiday Open House is Thursday, 12/12 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Middletown Township Municipal Building.

Summer Rec recap: We had 402 children participate in the program this year and the counselors did an outstanding job – a smooth summer program! P&R Dept. Revenue is \$568,000 which was above the budget value of \$538,000. We had a preview of the upcoming programs in the winter guide including young chefs, ceramics, princess parties, country line dancing. Will be going over the LAA and MAA agreement including the utility bills and updates on their agreements. Discussed upcoming board renewals (Bill, Dan, Missy).

Reminder: The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 14 at the Middletown Twp. Municipal Bldg. 3 Municipal Way Langhorne PA 19047 at 6:00 pm in the Twp Manager's Conference Room.

Dan Giacomelli made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill Fuller seconded; the motion was approved 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.